

EDGELEY

The anniversary services of Edgeley United Church will be held October 7th at 11 a.m. Rev. R. R. McMath of Newmarket will preach and music will be furnished by the Young People's Choir. At the evening service which begins at 7 p.m. Rev. J. F. G. Morris, a former pastor, will be the guest speaker and the soloist will be Miss Orpha Farr of Woodbridge.

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OTTAWA LETTER

By Jack Smith, M.P., North York

At long last the debate on the throne speech has ended and the House is now getting down to the real business of the session. The final division on the debate came just five minutes before closing hour Thursday night, and the government had a substantial majority, despite an almost solid vote against it by the combined opposition of the Conservatives, the C.C.F., Social Crediters, Bloc Populaire, and one or two independents from Quebec. The vote was 116 for the government and 91 against.

I had visited the House of Commons many times before becoming a member, but I never had witnessed a division. It was interesting to me so thought I might tell something of it in this letter.

The debate on the motion to adopt the speech from the throne and on amendments and sub-amendments proposed by opposition groups dragged on for three weeks. It nearly ended many times but someone always popped up to have something to say and keep it going. Agricultural Minister Gardiner finished speaking at 10.55 Thursday evening and as no opposition speaker took the floor government members called for the question. Speaker Fautoux rose and the debate was ended. The vote on the C.C.F. sub-amendment came first. The speaker asks all in favor to say Aye, and all opposed to say Nay, and a recorded vote is called for by members in any group rising in their places. The speaker then says "Call in the Members". The division bell rings all the Parliament House corridors. It is a shrill ringing which continues for ten or fifteen minutes which gives members engaged anywhere in the buildings time to get into the chamber.

As members in their seats await the arrival of their colleagues, to relieve the tension or in respect to time honored tradition or something they indulge in a free for all sing song. The French-speaking members lead in Allouette, other groups vie with each other in renditions of "My Wild Irish Rose", "There's a Long Long Trail" and other old favorites. Suddenly the bells cease ringing and the government and opposition whips march smartly down the centre aisle and take their seats. Once the whips enter the Chamber, no member may enter until the vote is taken. A member votes by rising in his place and bowing to the speaker. His name is called out by the deputy-clerk and recorded by the clerk. After all have voted the clerk communicates the count to the Speaker. The division is over and the party whips breathe easily again. One duty of the party whip is to see that all members of his party are in the House for a division, and it's quite a responsible and sometimes trying position. W. G. Weir of McDonald, Manitoba, is Liberal whip, and A. C. Casselman, Dundas, the Conservative whip.

The C.C.F. sub-amendment received the almost unanimous support of all opposition groups. One notable exception was J. M. Macdonald, prominent Toronto financier who represents Muskoka-Ontario. He apparently doesn't like the C.C.F., and he just wouldn't vote with them though his party and leader thought it good party strategy at the moment to do so. Following the defeat of the C.C.F. sub-amendment the Conservative amendment received the support of the C.C.F. and Social Crediters and some Bloc Populaire and one independent from Quebec.

There was considerable jockeying for position and political advantage in the various amendments and sub-amendments submitted. Conservatives naturally dislike both the C.C.F. and Social Credit groups, and this feeling is reciprocated by the C.C.F. and Social Credit members. The C.C.F. and Social Crediters have no particular love for each other and dislike and repudiate each other's policies. As between Liberals and Conservatives I think both the C.C.F. and Social Credit prefer the Liberals, but that doesn't mean they love them, but as they say off the record, they regard them as the lesser of two evils. Hence in wording and presenting amendments it sometimes appeared opposition groups were as anxious to put one or the

other opposition group on the spot, as they were the government.

The final amendments centered round the government announcement of floor price for wheat. Criticism was that the government's wheat policy of \$1.55 current ceiling was not high enough, and that the five year guarantee of a price not below a dollar was too low. The government policy after careful study of world market conditions and taking the long view for the future is that it would be short sighted to hold for the last possible cent at the present time, and thinks \$1.55 a fair price. In return it says to the wheat grower for the next five years at least you will not get less than \$1.00 per bushel. This is a minimum, not a maximum and the government hopes the floor never will be needed. In any event the policy does give the wheat grower for the first time a definite assurance against a return of the cheap wheat of the early thirties.

Price ceilings during wartime kept prices of farm products from rising, and in return the government policy is to provide that in peacetime the prices of farm produce will be maintained by a floor. It's a reasonable and fair policy which I think has the support of members of all parties in the house and throughout the country.

Prime Minister King is now absent from the House on an extended visit to Britain and other centres in Europe. The Prime Minister's announcement of his proposed trip received the unanimous support of all party leaders. The unanimous feeling is that he took the right step in going to Britain at this time to take a hand in shaping the policies for the post war world.

There are many interesting personalities among the members of the House and on the staff at Parliament Hill, and we will tell of some of them in these letters from time to time. Tom Reid, the veteran member for New Westminster, B.C., is an ardent Scot and is an expert and enthusiastic player of the pipes. From his fourth floor office almost any time during recess you will hear the skirl of Scottish airs and the shrill notes ring throughout the long corridors of the Parliament Buildings. My office is quite close to the pipe-playing member, and my reply to an objecting neighbour that I like the pipes, brought the rejoinder that it must be due to my Scottish ancestry and my lack of appreciation of music. Anyway Tom Reid has been playing the pipes around Parliament Hill for many years and I guess he will keep on despite the objections of those who don't appreciate them.

W. Ross Macdonald, K.C., Liberal member for Brantford since 1935, was elected Deputy Speaker of the Commons. The three group leaders voiced approval of Mr. Macdonald's election to the post. Mr. Coldwell referred to his having headed the Canadian delegation of M.P.'s who visited Britain in 1941 with distinction to himself and honor to Canada. Ross Macdonald is a fine gentleman and is known to many in North York where he has spoken on several occasions.

Mail this week included several of thanks for standard time. Particularly in rural areas the "fast time" never seemed popular and after three years it's a relief to get back to sub time. Thanks for comments on my radio debut Saturday night. Some said I sounded a bit nervous. I guess I was, or maybe it was just static. Anyway we hope to have the opportunity of making another radio talk in the not too distant future.

A few letters have come in with suggestions for the Committee To Prevent Government Waste. Thanks for your co-operation. To be good, government must be close to the people, so let's hear from you. The address is J. E. Smith, M.P., Parliament Buildings, Ottawa.

Next week-end will be Thanksgiving, and we will be home in Richmond Hill Saturday, if anyone has any business and wishes to see us.

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WEDDING

BULL-COWHERD

Brantford Shenstone Baptist Church effectively decorated with gladioli and fern, made an effective setting Saturday for the marriage of Miss Doris Terresa Cowherd, daughter of Rev. W. J. Cowherd and Mrs. Cowherd, Thamesville, Ontario, and Rev. W. Weldon Bull, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bull, Jefferson, Ont. Rev. H. Blair Ward, Hamilton, was the officiating clergyman. The organist was Mrs. D. J. Cowherd and Mrs. W. C. Cowherd sang "Because" and "Together Life's Pathway We Tread". The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a floor-length white satin gown, fashioned with a fitted bodice and full skirt. Her long veil of embroidered tulle was held in place by a halo headdress and orange blossoms and she carried a cascade bouquet of red roses. Miss Ruth Bull, sister of the groom, was maid of honor. She wore a pastel blue crepe gown with matching Juliet cap and veiling headdress. She carried a colonial bouquet of roses. The bridesmaid, Miss Grace Cowherd, sister of the bride, was gowned in pastel pink crepe. Her headdress and bouquet were the same as those of the maid of honor. Lois Cowherd, Toronto, niece of the bride, made a demure flower girl, wearing a gown of pale green organza. She carried a nosegay of roses. The groom was attended by Mr. Norman Cooper, Brantford, and the ushers were Rev. R. P. Cowherd, Toronto, and Mr. Archie Bull, Jefferson. Gladioli and asters were used in a decoration for the reception held in the I.O.O.F. Temple. For the honeymoon trip to the United States the bride wore a pink wool dress, brown tailored coat with matching accessories and a corsage of red roses. On their return the groom will resume his ministerial duties in Edmonton, Alta. Guests were present from Ridgeway, Jefferson, Toronto, New York, Calvin, Thamesville, Pickering, Hamilton, Port Credit, London and Harrow-smith.

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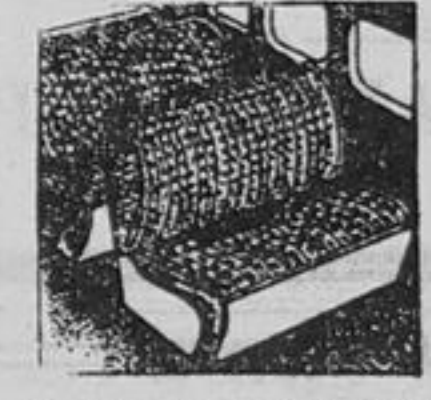
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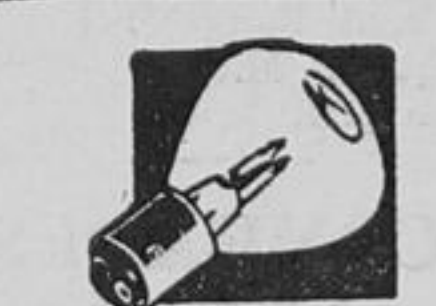


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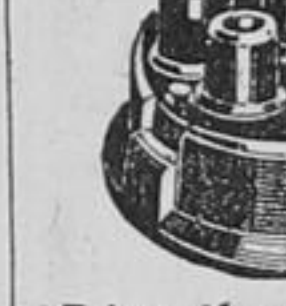
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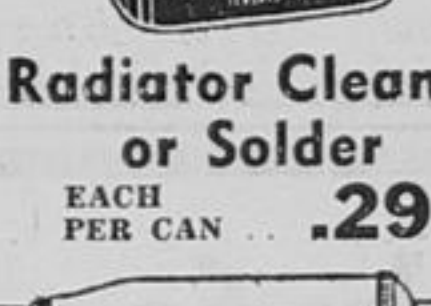
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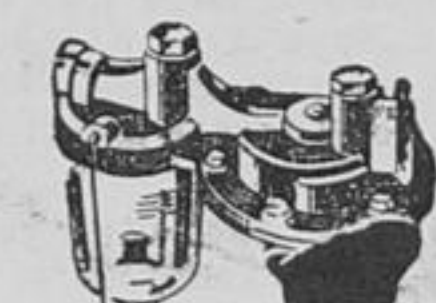
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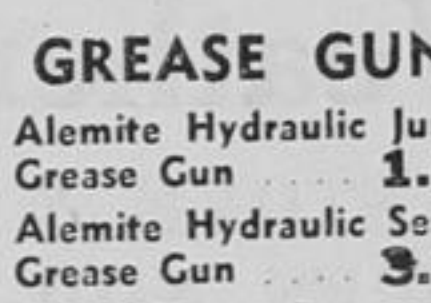
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6th

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